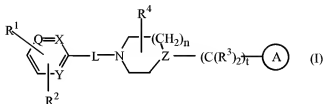


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the captioned application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (I),



the *N*-oxide forms, the pharmaceutically acceptable addition salts and the stereo-chemically isomeric forms thereof, wherein

n is 0, 1, 2 or 3 and when *n* is 0 then a direct bond is intended;

t is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4 and when *t* is 0 then a direct bond is intended;

each Q is $\text{—C}\equiv\text{C—}$;

each X is nitrogen ;

each Y is nitrogen ;

each Z is nitrogen ;

R¹ is $\text{—C(O)NR}^7\text{R}^8$, —NHC(O)R^9 , $\text{—C(O)—C}_{1-6}\text{alkanediyISR}^9$, $\text{—NR}^{10}\text{C(O)N(OH)R}^9$,
 $\text{—NR}^{10}\text{C(O)C}_{1-6}\text{alkanediyISR}^9$, $\text{—NR}^{10}\text{C(O)C=N(OH)R}^9$

wherein R⁷ and R⁸ are each independently selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, hydroxyC₁₋₆alkyl, aminoC₁₋₆alkyl or aminoaryl;

R⁹ is independently selected from hydrogen, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkylcarbonyl, arylC₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkylpyrazinyl, pyridinone, pyrrolidinone or methylimidazolyl;

R¹⁰ is independently selected from hydrogen or C₁₋₆alkyl;

R^2 is hydrogen, halo, hydroxy, amino, nitro, ~~C₁₋₆alkyl~~, C₁₋₆alkyloxy, trifluoromethyl, di(C₁₋₆alkyl)amino, hydroxyamino or naphthalenylsulfonylpyrazinyl;

-L- is a direct bond or a bivalent radical selected from C₁₋₆alkanediyl,
C₁₋₆alkanediyoxy, amino, carbonyl or aminocarbonyl;

each R^3 independently represents a hydrogen atom and one hydrogen atom can be replaced by a substituent selected from aryl;

R^4 is hydrogen, hydroxy, amino, hydroxyc₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkyloxy, arylC₁₋₆alkyl, aminocarbonyl, hydroxycarbonyl, aminoC₁₋₆alkyl, aminocarbonylC₁₋₆alkyl, hydroxycarbonylC₁₋₆alkyl, hydroxyaminocarbonyl, C₁₋₆alkyloxycarbonyl, C₁₋₆alkylaminoC₁₋₆alkyl or di(C₁₋₆alkyl)aminoC₁₋₆alkyl;

—(A) is a radical selected from



(a-1)



(a-2)



(a-3)



(a-4)



(a-5)



(a-6)



(a-7)



(a-8)



(a-9)



(a-10)



(a-11)



(a-12)



(a-13)



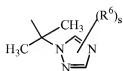
(a-14)



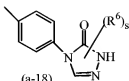
(a-15)



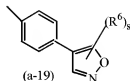
(a-16)



(a-17)



(a-18)



(a-19)



(a-20)



(a-21)



(a-22)



(a-23)



(a-24)



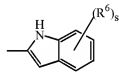
(a-25)



(a-26)



(a-27)



(a-28)



(a-29)



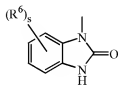
(a-30)



(a-31)



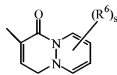
(a-32)



(a-33)



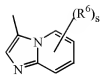
(a-34)



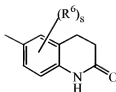
(a-35)



(a-36)



(a-37)



(a-38)



(a-39)



(a-40)



(a-41)



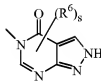
(a-42)



(a-43)



(a-44)



(a-45)



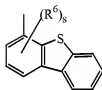
(a-46)



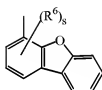
(a-47)



(a-48)



(a-49)



(a-50)



(a-51)

wherein each s is independently 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5;



each R⁵ and R⁶ are independently selected from hydrogen; halo; hydroxy; amino; nitro; trihaloC₁₋₆alkyl; trihaloC₁₋₆alkyloxy; C₁₋₆alkyl; C₁₋₆alkyl substituted with aryl and C₃₋₁₀cycloalkyl; C₁₋₆alkyloxy; C₁₋₆alkyloxyC₁₋₆alkyloxy; C₁₋₆alkylcarbonyl; C₁₋₆alkyloxycarbonyl; C₁₋₆alkylsulfonyl; cyanoC₁₋₆alkyl; hydroxyC₁₋₆alkyl; hydroxyC₁₋₆alkyloxy; hydroxyC₁₋₆alkylamino; aminoC₁₋₆alkyloxy; di(C₁₋₆alkyl)aminocarbonyl; di(hydroxyC₁₋₆alkyl)amino; (aryl)(C₁₋₆alkyl)amino; di(C₁₋₆alkyl)aminoC₁₋₆alkyloxy; di(C₁₋₆alkyl)aminoC₁₋₆alkylamino; di(C₁₋₆alkyl)aminoC₁₋₆alkylaminoC₁₋₆alkyl; arylsulfonyl; arylsulfonylamino; aryloxy; aryloxyC₁₋₆alkyl; arylC₂₋₆alkenediyl; di(C₁₋₆alkyl)amino; di(C₁₋₆alkyl)aminoC₁₋₆alkyl; di(C₁₋₆alkyl)amino(C₁₋₆alkyl)amino; di(C₁₋₆alkyl)amino(C₁₋₆alkyl)aminoC₁₋₆alkyl;


di(C₁₋₆alkyl)aminoC₁₋₆alkyl(C₁₋₆alkyl)amino;
di(C₁₋₆alkyl)aminoC₁₋₆alkyl(C₁₋₆alkyl)aminoC₁₋₆alkyl;
aminosulfonylamino(C₁₋₆alkyl)amino;
aminosulfonylamino(C₁₋₆alkyl)aminoC₁₋₆alkyl;
di(C₁₋₆alkyl)aminosulfonylamino(C₁₋₆alkyl)amino;
di(C₁₋₆alkyl)aminosulfonylamino(C₁₋₆alkyl)aminoC₁₋₆alkyl; cyano; thiophenyl; thiophenyl
substituted with di(C₁₋₆alkyl)aminoC₁₋₆alkyl(C₁₋₆alkyl)aminoC₁₋₆alkyl, di(C₁₋₆
alkyl)aminoC₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkylpiperazinyC₁₋₆alkyl,
hydroxyC₁₋₆alkylpiperazinyC₁₋₆alkyl,
hydroxyC₁₋₆alkyloxyC₁₋₆alkylpiperazinyC₁₋₆alkyl,
di(C₁₋₆alkyl)aminosulfonylpiperazinyC₁₋₆alkyl,
C₁₋₆alkyloxy piperidinyl, C₁₋₆alkyloxy piperidinylC₁₋₆alkyl, morpholinylC₁₋₆alkyl,
hydroxyC₁₋₆alkyl(C₁₋₆alkyl)aminoC₁₋₆alkyl, or di(hydroxyC₁₋₆alkyl)aminoC₁₋₆alkyl;
furanly; furanly substituted with hydroxyC₁₋₆alkyl; benzofuranly; imidazolyl; oxazolyl;
oxazolyl substituted with aryl and C₁₋₆alkyl; C₁₋₆alkyltriazolyl; tetrazolyl; pyrrolidinyl;
pyrrolyl; piperidinylC₁₋₆alkyloxy; morpholinyl; C₁₋₆alkylmorpholinyl; morpholinylC₁₋₆
alkyloxy;
morpholinylC₁₋₆alkyl; morpholinylC₁₋₆alkylamino;
morpholinylC₁₋₆alkylaminoC₁₋₆alkyl; piperaziny; C₁₋₆alkylpiperaziny;
C₁₋₆alkylpiperazinyC₁₋₆alkyloxy; piperazinyC₁₋₆alkyl; naphtalenylsulfonylpiperaziny;
naphtalenylsulfonylpiperidinyl; naphtalenylsulfonyl;
C₁₋₆alkylpiperazinyC₁₋₆alkyl; C₁₋₆alkylpiperazinyC₁₋₆alkylamino;
C₁₋₆alkylpiperazinyC₁₋₆alkylaminoC₁₋₆alkyl; C₁₋₆alkylpiperaziny lsulfonyl;
aminosulfonylpiperazinyC₁₋₆alkyloxy; aminosulfonylpiperaziny;
aminosulfonylpiperazinyC₁₋₆alkyl; di(C₁₋₆alkyl)aminosulfonylpiperaziny;
di(C₁₋₆alkyl)aminosulfonylpiperazinyC₁₋₆alkyl; hydroxyC₁₋₆alkylpiperaziny; hydroxyC₁₋₆
alkylpiperazinyC₁₋₆alkyl; C₁₋₆alkyloxy piperidinyl;
C₁₋₆alkyloxy piperidinylC₁₋₆alkyl; piperidinylaminoC₁₋₆alkylamino; piperidinylaminoC₁₋₆
alkylaminoC₁₋₆alkyl;
(C₁₋₆alkylpiperidinyl)(hydroxyC₁₋₆alkyl)aminoC₁₋₆alkylamino;
(C₁₋₆alkylpiperidinyl)(hydroxyC₁₋₆alkyl)aminoC₁₋₆alkylaminoC₁₋₆alkyl;
hydroxyC₁₋₆alkyloxyC₁₋₆alkylpiperaziny;
hydroxyC₁₋₆alkyloxyC₁₋₆alkylpiperazinyC₁₋₆alkyl;
(hydroxyC₁₋₆alkyl)(C₁₋₆alkyl)amino; (hydroxyC₁₋₆alkyl)(C₁₋₆alkyl)aminoC₁₋₆alkyl;
hydroxyC₁₋₆alkylaminoC₁₋₆alkyl; di(hydroxyC₁₋₆alkyl)aminoC₁₋₆alkyl;

pyrrolidinylC₁₋₆alkyl; pyrrolidinylC₁₋₆alkyloxy; pyrazolyl; thiopyrazolyl; pyrazolyl substituted with two substituents selected from C₁₋₆alkyl or trihaloC₁₋₆alkyl; pyridinyl; pyridinyl substituted with C₁₋₆alkyloxy, aryloxy or aryl; pyrimidinyl; tetrahydropyrimidinylpiperazinyl; tetrahydropyrimidinylpiperazinylC₁₋₆alkyl; quinolinyl; indole; phenyl; phenyl substituted with one, two or three substituents independently selected from halo, amino, nitro, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkyloxy, hydroxyC₁₋₄alkyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethyloxy, hydroxyC₁₋₄alkyloxy, C₁₋₄alkylsulfonyl, C₁₋₄alkyloxyC₁₋₄alkyloxy, C₁₋₄alkyloxy carbonyl, aminoC₁₋₄alkyloxy, di(C₁₋₄alkyl)aminoC₁₋₄alkyloxy, di(C₁₋₄alkyl)amino, di(C₁₋₄alkyl)aminocarbonyl, di(C₁₋₄alkyl)aminoC₁₋₄alkyl, di(C₁₋₄alkyl)aminoC₁₋₄alkylaminoC₁₋₄alkyl, di(C₁₋₄alkyl)amino(C₁₋₄alkyl)amino, di(C₁₋₄alkyl)amino(C₁₋₄alkyl)aminoC₁₋₄alkyl, di(C₁₋₄alkyl)aminoC₁₋₄alkyl(C₁₋₄alkyl)amino, di(C₁₋₄alkyl)aminoC₁₋₄alkyl(C₁₋₄alkyl)aminoC₁₋₄alkyl, aminosulfonylamino(C₁₋₄alkyl)amino, aminosulfonylamino(C₁₋₄alkyl)aminoC₁₋₄alkyl, di(C₁₋₄alkyl)aminosulfonylamino(C₁₋₄alkyl)amino, di(C₁₋₄alkyl)aminosulfonylamino(C₁₋₄alkyl)aminoC₁₋₆alkyl, cyano, piperidinylC₁₋₄alkyloxy, pyrrolidinylC₁₋₄alkyloxy, aminosulfonylpiperazinyl, aminosulfonylpiperazinylC₁₋₄alkyl, di(C₁₋₄alkyl)aminosulfonylpiperazinyl, di(C₁₋₄alkyl)aminosulfonylpiperazinylC₁₋₄alkyl, hydroxyC₁₋₄alkylpiperazinyl, hydroxyC₁₋₄alkylpiperazinylC₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄alkyloxy piperidinyl, C₁₋₄alkyloxy piperidinylC₁₋₄alkyl, hydroxyC₁₋₄alkyloxyC₁₋₄alkylpiperazinyl, hydroxyC₁₋₄alkyloxyC₁₋₄alkylpiperazinylC₁₋₄alkyl, (hydroxyC₁₋₄alkyl)(C₁₋₄alkyl)amino, (hydroxyC₁₋₄alkyl)(C₁₋₄alkyl)aminoC₁₋₄alkyl, di(hydroxyC₁₋₄alkyl)amino, di(hydroxyC₁₋₄alkyl)aminoC₁₋₄alkyl, furanyl, furanyl substituted with -CH=CH-CH=CH-, pyrrolidinylC₁₋₄alkyl, pyrrolidinylC₁₋₄alkyloxy, morpholinyl, morpholinylC₁₋₄alkyloxy, morpholinylC₁₋₄alkyl, morpholinylC₁₋₄alkylamino, morpholinylC₁₋₄alkylaminoC₁₋₄alkyl, piperazinyl, C₁₋₄alkylpiperazinyl, C₁₋₄alkylpiperazinylC₁₋₄alkyloxy, piperazinylC₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄alkylpiperazinylC₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄alkylpiperazinylC₁₋₄alkylamino, C₁₋₄alkylpiperazinylC₁₋₄alkylaminoC₁₋₆alkyl, tetrahydropyrimidinylpiperazinyl, tetrahydropyrimidinylpiperazinylC₁₋₄alkyl, piperidinylaminoC₁₋₄alkylamino, piperidinylaminoC₁₋₄alkylaminoC₁₋₄alkyl, (C₁₋₄alkylpiperidinyl)(hydroxyC₁₋₄alkyl)aminoC₁₋₄alkylamino,

(C₁₋₄alkylpiperidinyl)(hydroxyC₁₋₄alkyl)aminoC₁₋₄alkylaminoC₁₋₄alkyl,
pyridinylC₁₋₄alkyloxy,
hydroxyC₁₋₄alkylamino, hydroxyC₁₋₄alkylaminoC₁₋₄alkyl,
di(C₁₋₄alkyl)aminoC₁₋₄alkylamino, aminothiadiazolyl,
aminosulfonylpiperazinylC₁₋₄alkyloxy, or thiophenylC₁₋₄alkylamino;
each R⁵ and R⁶ can be placed on the nitrogen in replacement of the hydrogen;

aryl in the above is phenyl, or phenyl substituted with one or more substituents each
independently selected from halo, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkyloxy, trifluoromethyl, cyano or
hydroxycarbonyl.

2. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein n is 1 or 2; t is 0, 1, 2 or 4; each Q is ; R¹ is -C(O)NH(OH); R² is hydrogen or nitro; -L- is a direct bond or a bivalent radical selected from C₁₋₆alkanediyl; R⁴ is hydrogen;  is a radical selected from (a-1), (a-2), (a-3), (a-5), (a-6), (a-11), (a-18), (a-20), (a-21), (a-32), (a-33), (a-47) or (a-51); each s is independently 0, 1, 2, or 4; each R⁵ and R⁶ are independently selected from hydrogen; halo; trihaloC₁₋₆alkyl; C₁₋₆alkyl; C₁₋₆alkyl substituted with aryl and C₃₋₁₀cycloalkyl; C₁₋₆alkyloxy; C₁₋₆alkylcarbonyl; benzofuranyl; naphthalenylsulfonyl; pyridinyl substituted with aryloxy; phenyl; or phenyl substituted with one substituent independently selected from hydroxyC₁₋₄alkyl or morpholinylC₁₋₄alkyl.
3. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein t is 1, 2, 3, or 4; R¹ is -C(O)NR⁷R⁸, -C(O)-C₁₋₆alkanediylSR⁹, -NR¹⁰C(O)N(OH)R⁹, -NR¹⁰C(O)C₁₋₆alkanediylSR⁹, -NR¹⁰C(O)C=N(OH)R⁹ wherein R⁷ and R⁸ are each independently selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, hydroxyC₁₋₆alkyl or aminoC₁₋₆alkyl; R² is hydrogen, halo, hydroxy, amino, nitro, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkyloxy, trifluoromethyl or di(C₁₋₆alkyl)amino; -L- is a direct bond or a bivalent radical selected from C₁₋₆alkanediyl, C₁₋₆alkanediylloxy, amino or carbonyl; R⁴ is hydrogen, hydroxy, amino, hydroxyC₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkyloxy, arylC₁₋₆alkyl, aminocarbonyl, aminoC₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkylaminoC₁₋₆alkyl or di(C₁₋₆alkyl)aminoC₁₋₆alkyl;

— is a radical selected from (a-1), (a-3), (a-4), (a-5), (a-6), (a-7), (a-8), (a-9), (a-10), (a-11), (a-12), (a-13), (a-14), (a-15), (a-16), (a-17), (a-18), (a-19), (a-20), (a-21), (a-22), (a-23), (a-24), (a-25), (a-26), (a-28), (a-29), (a-30), (a-31), (a-32), (a-33), (a-34), (a-35), (a-36), (a-37), (a-38), (a-39), (a-40), (a-41), (a-42), (a-44), (a-45), (a-46), (a-47), (a-48) and (a-51);

each s is independently 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

R⁵ is hydrogen; halo; hydroxy; amino; nitro; trihaloC₁₋₆alkyl; trihaloC₁₋₆alkyloxy;

C₁₋₆alkyl; C₁₋₆alkyloxy; C₁₋₆alkylcarbonyl; C₁₋₆alkyloxycarbonyl;

C₁₋₆alkylsulfonyl; hydroxyC₁₋₆alkyl; aryloxy; di(C₁₋₆alkyl)amino; cyano; thiophenyl; furanyl; furanyl substituted with hydroxyC₁₋₆alkyl; benzofuranyl; imidazolyl; oxazolyl; oxazolyl substituted with aryl and C₁₋₆alkyl;

C₁₋₆alkyltriazolyl; tetrazolyl; pyrrolidinyl; pyrrolyl; morpholinyl;

C₁₋₆alkylmorpholinyl; piperazinyl;

C₁₋₆alkylpiperazinyl; hydroxyC₁₋₆alkylpiperazinyl;



C₁₋₆alkyloxypiperidinyl; pyrazolyl; pyrazolyl substituted with one or two substituents selected from C₁₋₆alkyl or trihaloC₁₋₆alkyl; pyridinyl; pyridinyl substituted with C₁₋₆alkyloxy, aryloxy or aryl; pyrimidinyl; quinolinyl; indole; phenyl; or phenyl substituted with one or two substituents independently selected from halo, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkyloxy or trifluoromethyl;

R⁶ is hydrogen; halo; hydroxy; amino; nitro; trihaloC₁₋₆alkyl; trihaloC₁₋₆alkyloxy;

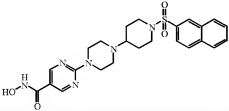
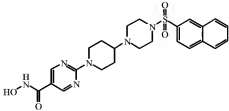
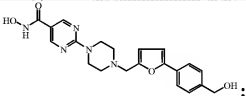
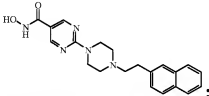
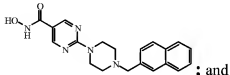
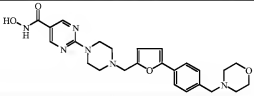
C₁₋₆alkyl; C₁₋₆alkyloxy; C₁₋₆alkylcarbonyl; C₁₋₆alkyloxycarbonyl;

C₁₋₆alkylsulfonyl; hydroxyC₁₋₆alkyl; aryloxy; di(C₁₋₆alkyl)amino; cyano; pyridinyl;

phenyl; or phenyl substituted with one or two substituents independently selected from halo, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkyloxy or trifluoromethyl.

4. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein n is 1; t is 0 or 1; each Q is ; each X is nitrogen; each Y is nitrogen; R¹ is -C(O)NH(OH); R² is hydrogen; -L- is a direct bond; each R³ independently represents a hydrogen atom; R⁴ is hydrogen; — is a radical selected from (a-6), (a-11), (a-20), (a-47) or (a-51); each s is independently 0, 1, or 4; and each R⁵ and R⁶ are independently selected from hydrogen; C₁₋₆alkyl; C₁₋₆alkyloxy; naphthalenylsulfonyl; or phenyl substituted with hydroxyC₁₋₄alkyl or morpholinylC₁₋₄alkyl.

5. (Previously Presented) A compound selected from the group consisting of:

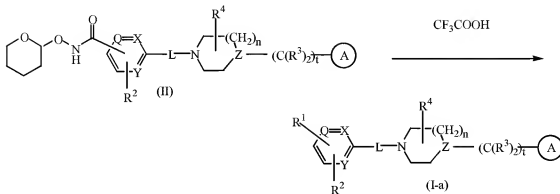
6. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising pharmaceutically acceptable carriers and as an active ingredient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

7. (Previously Presented) A process of preparing a pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 6 wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carriers and the compound according to claim 1 are intimately mixed.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing a compound as claimed in claim 1, said method comprising: reacting an intermediate of formula (II) with an acid yielding a hydroxamic acid of formula (I-a), wherein R^1 is $-C(O)NH(OH)$



11. (Currently Amended) A method of detecting or identifying a HDAC in a biological sample comprising detecting or measuring the formation of a complex between a labelled compound as defined in claim 1 and a HDAC.

12. (Cancelled)